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I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Stephanie Hill

Name (Print)

Stephanie Hill  
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: HABECKER et al.	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
Application No.: Unassigned	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Filed: February 3, 2004	)	
	)	
Docket No.: 99024CIPDIV2 (3600-234-03)	)	Confirmation No.: Unassigned

For: METHOD OF MAKING NIOBIUM AND OTHER METAL POWDERS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 3, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Documents were cited in parent Application No. 10/095,245, filed March 11, 2002 or grandparent Application No. 09/527,053 filed March 16, 2000. In accordance with M.P.E.P. §609, it is not necessary to provide copies of those documents with this filing.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before expiration of the three-month period following filing of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. *See* 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application,

Information Disclosure Statement  
U.S. Patent Application No. Unassigned

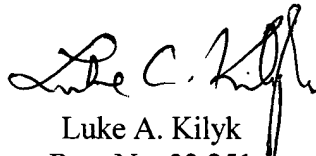
and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Enclosures: PTO-1449

FORM PTO-1449 (REV 7-80)				Atty. Docket No. 99024CIPDIV2 (3600-234-03)		Application No. Unassigned	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>				APPLICANT: Habecker et al.			
				Filing Date: February 3, 2004		Group Art Unit: Unassigned	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE, IF APPROPRIATE
		2002/0134196 A1	9/26/02	Naito	75	245	
		2002/0124687 A1	9/12/02	Habecker et al.	75	230	
		2002/0104404 A1	8/8/02	Naito	75	245	
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		6,136,062	10/24/00	Loffelholz et al.	75	369	
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		5,328,501	07/1994	McCormick et al	75	352	
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
<p><b>*EXAMINER:</b> Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>							

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Atty. Docket No.: 99024CIPDIV2 (3600-234-03)		Application No.:		To Be Assigned		
Applicant:		HABECKER et al.				
Filing Date:		February 3, 2004		Group Art Unit:		To Be Assigned
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	1,415,516	9/1922	Bridge	75	614	
	2,242,759	05/1941	Schlect et al.	75	395	
	3,418,106	12/24/68	Piettet	75	.5 BB	
	3,496,076	02/17/70	Cheseldine	204	56	
	3,630,718	12/28/71	Neuenschwander	75	0.5	
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	3,647,420	03/07/72	Restelli	75	84	
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Examiner		Date Considered	
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